

# Host Homes Program of Milford

Milford Town Hall, 1 Union Square, Milford, NH 03055 - 4240 (603) 672 - 1069

## ~2005 REPORT~

The Host Home Program provides respite, intervention and referrals to the adolescents of Milford and this is the ninth year we have been providing such services. Once again we have exceeded our expectations by providing services to 101 teens during the past year.

Respite care (placement) was provided to five adolescents for a total of 459 days in 2005. Through the nature of our program, these adolescents were able to continue in school, as well as maintain their friendships, and jobs etc., all uninterrupted despite their circumstances. They and their families were referred to Milford Area Mediation and Hillsborough County Family Intervention as part of the placement process. These referrals are also made as part of the intervention process. The Host Home Program provides 24 hour a day response and support to the Host Home guests, families and other referral agencies (such as the Milford Police). Host Home families feel comfortable calling at any time, day or night if the need occurs and the program addresses their concerns immediately.

More and more we receive referrals about teens that do not wish to be placed, but either they or their families realize they need help. We are able to address their concerns and offer them help with other agencies within the community. These agencies include Bridges, the Youth Council, Community Council, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Transitional Living Program, Nashua Children's Home, Milford Mediation, Hillsborough County Family Intervention, as well as area therapists. The local churches continue to be supportive as well. Placement always remains an additional option and all parties seem comfortable knowing that.

When an adolescent leaves a Host Home we continue to stay involved with them and their families. Host Homes has helped with summer plans including job placements, internships and volunteer work. It is not uncommon to hear back from families for further services as needs occur. This is particularly gratifying because you realize they feel you can help that you have in the past and you will try to do so again.

The Host Home Program works in conjunction with many agencies. Once again, it is a privilege working with the Milford High School, the Milford Middle School and the Milford Police Department. Once again we would like to give our sincere appreciation to the Kaley Foundation for stepping in at a time of need.

We are grateful to the Town of Milford for their continued support of the Host Home Program. We also wish to thank the Wadleigh Public Library for the wonderful space they offer us in the Library Annex. Clients feel comfortable under difficult circumstances in this warm and cheerful building.

During the year 2005 we continue to be blessed with our wonderful host homes. Our host home families are exceptional in their kindness towards the teens and the

strengths they bring to the program. Thank you very much for what you have done for the youth of our community. We are so grateful to you very special people.

If you feel you would like to be a part of The Host Home Program or know of a child in need, please call our office at 672-1069 and we will be there to respond.

Thank you for allowing this unique program to be part of your community.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Pat Jackson, Host Home Program Coordinator



**MILFORD AREA MEDIATION PROGRAM**

### **~2005 REPORT~**

The Milford Area Mediation Program closes another successful year of providing mediation services to Milford and the thirteen surrounding towns and villages. The support of Hillsborough County 6 % funding, local voters, program revenues and individual donations continue to demonstrate the wide support of the program.

During the past year, the Program Coordinator took a leave of absence that eventually lead to her resignation. There was a transition period of four months before a new Program Coordinator was hired in November. During these four months, one of the mediation volunteers contracted services with the Town of Milford to ensure continued operations of the Milford Area Mediation Program. The program is beginning a new stage of revitalization with community outreach to facilitate additional clientele.

A new project for the program was Peer Mediation Training offered and completed at Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School. This program will continue to be offered throughout the catchment area next year.

With careful budget management and the additional funds, the program was able to honor the volunteers (both active and potential) with a tea at K. D. Crumbles in Milford as well as a holiday celebration. There was also funding to train volunteers (in conjunction with other agencies). Membership to the New Hampshire Mediation professional group was also funded for active volunteers. A concentrated, focused effort will continue to be made to recruit new volunteers for the program. There are five individuals who have completed the application process, and the goal is to begin training in early 2006.

I look forward to the coming year. New volunteers will be trained and prepared to mediate. The goal will be to continue to serve more area residents through mediation and referrals to secondary agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

May Delaney, Milford Area Mediation Program Coordinator,